

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Robert Patch on February 17, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

a. The Specification, at page 19, lines 5-9, has been amended to:

With regard to the material (~~in Claims 28-38~~) of this application, (~~considered separately from the other claims,~~) reference can be made for embodiments and further explanation to Netherlands Patent Application 1 012 150 which was filed on 25 May 1999, has not previously been published and is incorporated by reference as an integral part of this PCT application by means of Sections 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1 and associated Figures 1 - 14.

b. Since claim 73 have been cancelled in the after final amendment filed on November 28, 2008, each of claims 75, 122, and 124 have been amended to:

Claim 75 (Currently Amended) --The assembly according to claim 72 (~~73~~)--.

Claim 122 (Currently Amended) --The assembly according to claim 72 (~~73~~)--.

Claim 124 (Currently Amended) --The assembly according to claim 72 (~~73~~)--.

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Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 72, 74, 75, 77, 88, and 122-127 are allowable. The restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on March 22, 2006, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims to the elected invention pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a). **The restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.**

3. Claims 78-83, 85-87, 89, and 90, directed to non-elected species, are no longer withdrawn from consideration because the claim(s) requires all the limitations of an allowable claim (independent claim 72). In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javier G. Blanco whose telephone number is 571-272-4747. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.), first Friday of the bi-week off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Isabella can be reached on **(571)272-4749**. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Javier G. Blanco/

Examiner, Art Unit 3774

/DAVID ISABELLA/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3774